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# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR WESTERN UNITED STATES Including Columbia River Drainage in Canada



# U. S. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE \* SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Collaborating with CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT of WATER RESOURCES BRITISH COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT of LANDS, FORESTS and WATER RESOURCES



#### TO RECIPIENTS OF WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK REPORTS:

Most of the usable water in western states originates as mountain snowfall. This snowfall accumulates during the winter and spring, several months before the snow melts and appears as streamflow. Since the runoff from precipitation as snow is delayed, estimates of snowmelt runoff can be made well in advance of its occurrence. Streamflow forecasts published in this report are based principally on measurement of the water equivalent of the mountain snowpack.

Forecasts become more accurate as more of the data affecting runoff are measured. All forecasts assume that climatic factors during the remainder of the snow accumulation and melt season will interact with a resultant average effect on runoff. Early season forecasts are therefore subject to a greater change than those made on later dates.

The snow course measurement is obtained by sampling snow depth and water equivalent at surveyed and marked locations in mountain areas. A total of about ten samples are taken at each location. The average of these are reported as snow depth and water equivalent. These measurements are repeated in the same location near the same dates each year.

Snow surveys are made monthly or semi-monthly from January 1 through June 1 in most states. There are about 1900 snow courses in Western United States and in the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. Networks of automatic snow water equivalent and related data sensing devices, along with radio telemetry are expanding and will provide a continuous record of snow water and other parameters at key locations.

Detailed data on snow course and soil moisture measurements are presented in state and local reports. Other data on reservoir storage, summaries of precipitation, current streamflow, and soil moisture conditions at valley elevations are also included. The report for Western United States presents a broad picture of water supply outlook conditions, including selected streamflow forecasts, summary of snow accumulation to date, and storage in larger reservoirs.

Snow survey and soil moisture data for the period of record are published by the Soil Conservation Service by states about every five years. Data for the current year is summarized in a West-wide basic data summary and published about October 1 of each year.

COVER PHOTO: SNOW COURSE MEASUREMENTS BY A SURVEY TEAM IN UTAH'S WASATCH RANGE.

ORC-254-10

#### PUBLISHED BY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service publishes reports following the principal snow survey dates from January 1 through June 1 in cooperation with state water administrators, agricultural experiment stations and others. Copies of the reports for Western United States and all state reports may be obtained from Soil Conservation Service, West Technical Service Center, Room 510, 511 N.W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97209.

Copies of state and local reports may also be obtained from state offices of the Soil Conservation Service in the following states:

STATE	ADDRESS
Alaska	Room 129, 2221 East Northern Lights Blvd., Anchorage, Alaska 99504
Arizona	Room 3008, 6029 Federal Building, Phoenix, Arizona 85025
Colorado (N. Mex.)	P. O. Box 17107, Denver, Colorado 80217
Idaho	Room 345, 304 N. 8th. St., Boise, Idaho 83702
Montana	P.O. Box 98, Bozeman, Montana 59715
Nevada	P. O. Box 4850, Reno Nevada 89505
Oregon	1220 S.W. Third Ave., Portland, Oregon 97204
Utah	4012 Federal Bldg., 125 South State St., Salt Lake City, Utah 84138
Washington	360 U.S. Court House, Spokane, Washington 99201
Wyoming	P. O. Box 2440, Casper, Wyoming 82602

#### PUBLISHED BY OTHER AGENCIES

Water Supply Outlook reports prepared by other agencies include a report for California by the Water Supply Forecast and Snow Surveys Unit, California Department of Water Resources, P. O. Box 388, Sacramento, California 95802 --- and for British Columbia by the Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, Water Resources Service, Parliament Building, Victoria, British Columbia

# WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR WESTERN UNITED STATES

Including Columbia River Drainage in Canada

ISSUED

MAY 1, 1977

The Soil Conservation Service coordinates snow surveys conducted by its staff and many cooperators, including the Bureau of Reclamation, Corps of Engineers, Forest Service, National Park Service, NOAA, National Weather Service, Geological Survey, and other Federal Agencies, Departments of State Government, Irrigation Districts, Power Companies, and others.

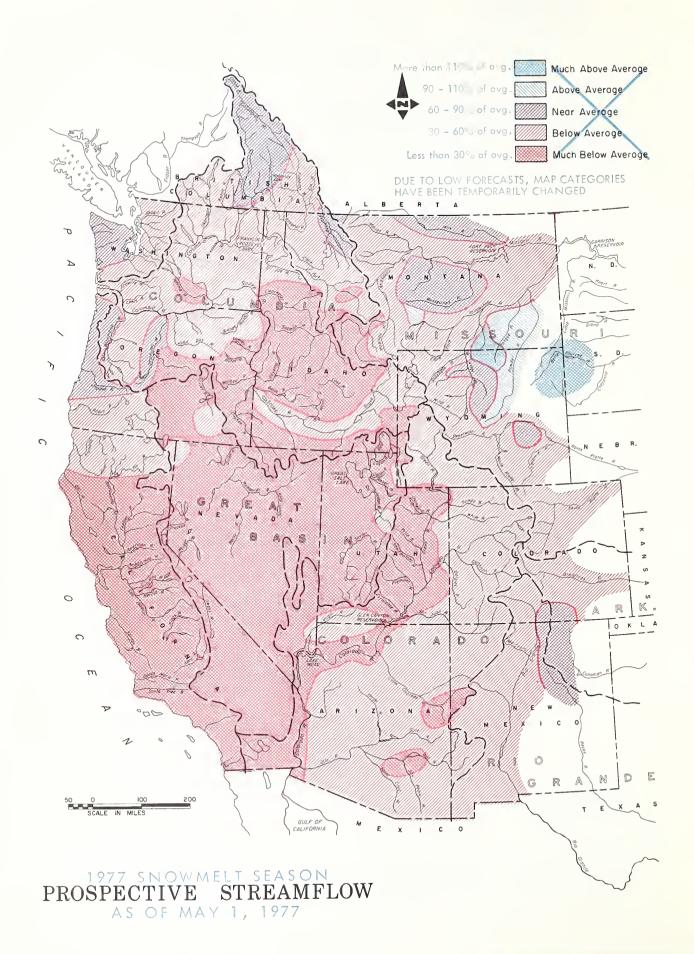
The Department of Water Resources coordinates snow surveys in California.

The Water Resources Service, Department of Lands, Forests, and Water Resources directs snow surveys in British Columbia.

This report was prepared by the Water Supply Forecasting Unit, Engineering Division, Soil Conservation Service, from data supplied by Snow Survey Supervisors of the Soil Conservation Service in the States of Alaska, Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Data from California was supplied by the Chief, Water Supply Forecast and Snow Survey Unit, Department of Water Resources.

Data from British Columbia was supplied by the Chief, llydrology Division, Water Investigations Branch, Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources.



## WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

1977 SNOWMELT SEASON MAY 1, 1977

NO RELIEF IN THE DROUGHT WAS RECEIVED DURING APRIL, AS WARM, DRY WEATHER PREVAILED. LITTLE SNOW REMAINS ON MOST OF THE WEST'S MOUNTAIN RANGES, AND SNOWMELT RUNOFF WILL BE LESS THAN ANY YEAR THIS CENTURY.

Widespread severe water shortage continues to be forecast for much of the West this summer. The record minimum spring and summer runoff which is forecast from most of the rivers in the region will not be enough to meet the demands unless heavy and frequent summer rains are received.

Warm, dry weather in April triggered the melting of mountain snowpacks as much as 30 days earlier than normal, which rapidly depleted the record low snowpack of 1 month ago. By May 1, very little snow remained at most low and mid elevations. The high country pack is much lighter than normal, but is not yet melting rapidly.

Melt water is being absorbed by abnormally dry watershed soils. As a result, many streams have reached their runoff peaks and are receding. Reservoirs which normally would be filling with the spring freshets are, instead, being lowered by heavy irrigation demands.

Throughout most of the West the very shallow snowpack was at a record low level on February 1, March 1, and April 1. This last survey period of the season, May 1, was no exception. Many data sites had no snow, and those that did have some snow had record low amounts.

Reservoir storage did not increase in the normal amount during April. California and Nevada impoundments continue to be most deficient as the drought in that region is in its second year.

The snowmelt runoff forecast for the Columbia River has been revised downward from 1 month ago, and is now expected to be at a 99-year low of only 49 percent of normal. The Snake River is expected to contribute only about one-third of its normal amount. Many smaller Idaho and Oregon tributaries to the Columbia are forecast to yield as little as 10 to 25 percent of average.

The snowpack is almost entirely melted from the Sierra Nevada, with no more than 5 percent of the normal May 1 level remaining on the California side. Central Valley rivers are forecast to flow at rates only 5 to 18 percent of average, except for the Sacramento, which is predicted to provide 39 percent of its normal inflow into Shasta

reservoir. Those streams flowing eastward from the Sierra into the state of Nevada will also be very low this summer. Forecasts indicate that these streams will yield only 10 to 25 percent of their averages.

The Colorado river basin conditions deteriorated again during April. Inflow to Lake Powell is forecast to be only 25 percent of normal. The most severe tributary condition is on the Duchesne, where only 1 percent of the normal flow is forecast at the Randlett gaging station. The Green River will contribute about 30 percent of normal and the Gunnison about 34 percent. The Roaring Fork and White Rivers, heading in Colorado, are expected to yield nearly one-half of average.

Streams in the Platte, Arkansas, and Rio Grande basins are expected to flow at rates of from about 40 to 60 percent of average. These yields are near the record low flows. Reservoir storage is near normal along the Platte and Rio Grande but quite deficient on the Arkansas.

Conditions in the upper Missouri River basin are quite variable, and range from slightly above normal in the Big Horn range to only 7 percent of normal from the Beaverhead River in Montana. Most rivers are forecast to yield from 40 to 70 percent of average. Reservoir storage is generally adequate to supplement the low streamflow yields.

The Great Basin of Nevada and Utah will receive much below normal runoff. As indicated above, the yields from Sierra Nevada streams will be very low. The Humboldt River is forecast to run at only 7 percent of its normal. The Bear River is expected to yield only 6 percent. Elsewhere in the basin, most streams are forecast to contribute from 10 to 30 percent. Reservoir storage is generally good in Utah, but only about one-half of normal in Nevada.

The above-referenced streamflow forecasts all indicate severe water supply shortages throughout the West. Reservoir storage is near the May I average in most river basins, with the most notable exceptions in California, Nevada, and along the Arkansas River. In a more normal year reservoir storage improves during the spring and early summer freshet period. However, this year

#### SUMMARY OF SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT MEASUREMENTS

MAJOR BASIN AND	IN PERC	UIVALENT ENT OF:	MAJOR BASIN AND	IN PERCENT	
SUB — WATERSHED MISSOURI BASIN	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE	SUB - WATERSHED SNAKE BASIN	LAST YEAR	AVERAGE
Jefferson Madison Gallatin Missouri Main Stem Yellowstone Shoshone Wind North Platte South Platte ARKANSAS BASIN	19 18 41 37 38 9 21 80 55	25 23 47 44 47 15 24 86 49	Snake above Jackson, Wyo. Snake above Hiese, Idaho Henry's Fork Southern Idaho Tributaries Big and Little Wood Boise Owyhee Payette Malheur Weiser	9 4 0 5 0	18 17 10 13 9 4 0 5
Arkansas Cucharas - Purgatoire RIO GRANDE BASIN	38 51	30 33	Burnt Powder Salmon Grande Ronde Clearwater	0 1 7 12 30	0 1 8 14 30
Rio Grande (Colo.) Rio Grande (New Mexico) Pecos  COLORADO BASIN	19 - -	23 - -	LOWER COLUMBIA BASIN Yakima Umatilla	26 0	12 0
Green (Wyo.) Yampa - White Duchesne Price Upper Colorado Gunnison San Juan Dolores Virgin Gila Salt Verde	24 0 0 43 15 15 17 0 -	20 0 0 35 14 20 13 0 -	John Day Deschutes - Crooked Hood Willamette Lewis Cowlitz  PACIFIC COASTAL BASIN Puget Sound Olympic Peninsula Umpqua - Rogue Klamath	0 11 14 20 26 36 36	32 32 32 32 32 32 32 32
GREAT BASIN  Bear Logan Ogden Weber Provo - Utah Lake Jordan Sevier Walker - Carson Tahoe - Truckee Humboldt Lake Co. (Oregon) Harney Basin (Oregon) Owens	9 8 0 18 5 9 - 18 30 11 0 25	9 0 17 5 8 13 3 9 13 0	Trinity  CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY  Upper Sacramento Feather Yuba American Mokelumne Stanislaus Tuolumne Merced San Joaquin Kings Kaweah	5 15 15 20 15 15 15 25 20 20	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5
UPPER COLUMBIA BASIN Columbia (Canada) Kootenai Clark Fork Bitterroot Flathead Spokane Okanogan Methow Chelan Wenatchee	51 39 24 25 43 27 26 23 36 17	58 40 27 31 41 26 25 26 49 22	Tule Kern  Data for California Watershe of Water Resources, and for Watersheds by Dept. of Lands Resources.  Average is for the 1958-72 p averages are for the period Selected Snow Cources determion within the Basin, Length petitive Monthly Measurement	ds supplied British C Forests an eriod. Calif 1931-70. Ba nined by Didt of Record a	0 5 by Dept. columbia d Water fornia used on cribut-

the rise in river flow due to melting snow has been so small that little, if any, improvement in reservoir storage is anticipated.

In the face of this expected widespread shortage, the Soil Conservation Service urges that water conservation be practiced wherever possible to help lessen the effects of the drought. Water Conservation "TIPS" brochures which give conservation hints for crops and soils, pasture and range, irrigation, and yards and gardens can be obtained from your local Soil Conservation Service or Conservation District office.

The "Prospective Streamflow" map, on the opposite page, has been changed again for this issue of the "Water Supply Outlook" to illustrate more clearly the runoff picture. The reader is directed to the legend headings printed in blue for an explanation of the map categories.

The back cover of this bulletin is designed to be removed and returned to indicate the reader's interest in receiving the publication. Federal regulations require that this inquiry be made of recipients of free government bulletins. The front cover "fly sheet" is designed to be torn off and destroyed at the time the back cover is detached, signed, folded, and mailed.

#### **ALASKA**

A very heavy snowpack covers most of Southcentral Alaska while in striking contrast a lean snow belt exists between the Alaska Range and the Yukon River. Snow in the Brooks Range is significantly above normal and the Yukon River headwaters in Canada are a little below normal. The Juneau area of Southeast is just about average for May 1.

A record heavy snowpack exists in the Kenai, Chugach, and St. Elias Mountains. At one course bordering Prince William Sound, the pack measured 34 feet deep with better than 15 feet water content. The remainder of the region south of the Alaska Range is less imposing with snow cover averaging only 30 to 60 percent above normal. Snowmelt runoff volumes will be heavy as typified by the forecast for Ship Creek near Anchorage where streamflow for the April-July period is expected to exceed the norm by 54 percent.

The Fairbanks-Chena River area is about center and typical of the low snow region. Here the snowpack averages 30 percent below normal with the Chena River flow about the same.

#### ARIZONA

Snowmelt has progressed normally in the state, with only a little left at the higher elevations. Most rivers have receded to near base flow levels. April weather has not altered the water supply outlook. It is still anticipated that supplies will be adequate for most irrigation projects served by reservoir storage. Snow surveys are not made on May 1 in Arizona, since the snowpack season is normally ended by this date.

#### CALIFORNIA

The California Department of Water Resources, coordinating agency for snow surveys and water supply forecasting in California, reports that April was the seventh consecutive month of below average precipitation and 1977 can now be firmly classified as the driest year of record in California. The task now before all water agencies is to provide at least a minimal supply of water for essential requirements. This report contains information on the water supply conditions as of May 1, and may be used as a base from which to prepare contingency plans for this summer, and to estimate carryover water storage amounts for 1978.

Forecasts of runoff have been reduced from those presented 1 month ago as a result of below normal precipitation during April and because some of the meager snowmelt has been retained by mountain soils. Record low April-July and water year flows are forecasted for all major streams of the Central Valley and Lahontan area.

Snowpack measurements of water storage, based on May I snow surveys, show that only the higher elevations still retain some snow. In normal years about 70 percent of the seasonal snow accumulation would still be available on May I for snowmelt runoff. This year only 5 percent of a normal season's accumulation of water content remains. Most courses below 9,000 feet (2,740 metres) are bare. The snowmelt period for this year began in late March and will be essentially completed early in May.

Precipitation during April was 10 percent of average over the state. Water year precipitation, October 1 through April 30, has been 30 percent of average. With the precipitation season nearly over, this value will change very little by the time the 1976-77 water year ends on September 30.

#### SELECTED STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

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STREAM AND STATION	FORECASTS 1		Forecast Period	Last Year's Flow In	
	Flow In (1,000 A.F.)	Percent of Average	Porecast Period	(1,000 A.F.)	
SASKATCHEWAN					
St. Mary near Babb, Montana 1/	285	61	May-Sept.	468	
UPPER MISSOURI	203	01	may-sept.	400	
Beaverhead near Grant, Montana 2/	7	7	May-Sept.	106	
Big Hole near Melrose, Montana	190	29	May-Sept.	665	
Madison near Grayling, Montana 3/	255	53	May-Sept.	425	
Gallatin near Gateway, Montana	300	59	May-Sept.	507	
Sun at Gibson Dam, Montana 4/	240	43	May-Sept.	55 <b>6</b>	
Belt near Monarch, Montana	98	85	May-Sept.	115	
Marias near Shelby, Montana 5/	145	30	May-Sept.	486	
Missouri near Landusky, Montana 6/	1,500	36	May-Sept.	4,150	
near Williston, North Dakota 7/	4,150	40	May-Sept.	10,352	
Fk. Musselshell above Martinsdale, Montana	34	78	May-Sept.	44	
Milk at Eastern Crossing, Montana	155	70	May-Sept.	221	
'ellowstone at Yellowstone Lake Outlet, Wyo.	375	46	April-Sept.	955	
at Corwin Springs, Montana	1,080	56	May-Sept.	1,915	
at Miles City, Montana 8/	2,750	46	May-Sept.	5,931	
Clarks Fork near Belfry, Montana	320	55	May-Sept.	586	
hoshone below Buffalo Bill Res., Wyo. 9/	420	5 <b>1</b>	April-Sept.	1,037	
ind near Dubois, Wyoming	47	46	April-Sept.	146	
at Riverton, Wyoming 10/	250	38	April-Sept.	736	
below Boysen Res., Wyoming 11/	400	40	April-Sept.	1,006	
ull Lake Creek near Lenore, Wyoming	110	60	April-Sept.	178	
ittle Popo Agie near Lander, Wyoming	26	54	April-Sept.	40	
ensleep near Tensleep, Wyoming	51	65	April-Sept.		
edicine Lodge near Hyattville, Wyoming	13	62	April-Sept.		
hell Creek near Shell, Wyoming	65	89	April-Sept.	85	
ig Horn near St. Xavier, Montana 8/	450	26	May-Sept.	1,724	
ongue near Dayton, Wyoming	130	115	April-Sept.	108	
o. Fork Powder near Hazelton, Wyoming	9.5	95	April-Sept.	11.1	
PLATTE					
orth Platte at Northgate, Colorado	144	60	April-Sept.	163	
ncampment near Encampment, Wyoming	60	43	April-Sept.	142	
eer Creek at Glenrock, Wyoming	20	77	March-July	36	
aramie Riv. & Pioneer Canal, nr Woods, Wyo.12/	56	44	April-Sept.	101	
ig Thompson at Drake, Colorado 13/	45	42	April-Sept.	101	
lear at Golden, Colorado 14/	55	43	April-Sept.		
t. Vrain at Lyons, Colorado 15/	30	40	April-Sept.		
ache LaPoudre near Fort Collins, Colorado 16/	110	45	April-Sept.		
zene zarodare near rore corrins, cerorado 10/	110	15	Aprili Sept.		
ARKANSAS					
rkansas at Salida, Colorado <u>17</u> /	150	50	April-Sept.		
ucharas near LaVeta, Colorado	8	80	April-Sept.		
urgatoire at Trinidad, Colorado	23	61	April-Sept.		
RIO GRANDE					
io Grande near Del Norte, Colorado 18/	230	49	April-Sept.		
at Otowi Bridge, New Mexico 19/	215	41	March-July		
onejos near Mogote, Colorado 20/	85	46	April-Sept.		
1 Vado Res., Inflow, New Mexico	74	39	March-July		
ecos at Pecos, New Mexico	35	85	March-July		
HDDED COLODADO					
UPPER COLORADO	116	£1	April-Sont		
plorado, Grandby Res. Inflow, Colorado 21/	116	51 45	April-Sept.		
near Dotsero, Colorado 22/	645	45	April-Sept.		
near Cameo, Colorado 23/	1,100	46	April-Sept.	2 500	
near Cisco, Utah 24/	836	29	April-July	3,600	
Lake Powell Inflow, Arizona 25/	1,690	25	April-July		
paring Fork at Glenwood Springs, Colorado 26/	350	49	April-Sept.		
ncompangre at Colona, Colorado	51	38	April-Sept.		

Forecasts in California provided by Department of Water Resources. Average is for 1958-72 period except California. California is computed for 1921-70 period. Forecasts assume average Effective Climate Conditions from Date Through Snow Melt Season.

STREAM AND STATION	FORECASTS		Forecast Period	Last Year's
S. NENTTANO STATION	Flow In (1,000 A.F.)	Percent of Average	Torecast Feriod	Flow In (1,000 A F )
UPPER COLORADO (continued) Gunnison, Blue Mesa Res. Inflow, Colorado 27/ near Grand Junction, Colorado 28/ Dolores at Dolores, Colorado Green at Warren Bridge, Wyoming at Green River, Wyoming 29/ Flaming Gorge Res. Inflow, Utah 27/ at Green River, Utah 30/ Big Sandy near Big Sandy, Wyoming Yampa at Steamboat Springs, Colorado near Maybell, Colorado Little Snake near Dixon, Wyoming White near Meeker, Colorado Strawberry at Duchesne, Utah 40/ Duchesne near Tabiona, Utah 31/ at Randlett, Utah 40/ Lakefork below Moon Lake, Utah 32/ Uinta near Neola, Utah Whiterocks near Whiterocks, Utah Price, Scofield Res. Inflow, Utah 33/ Cottonwood near Orangeville, Utah 34/ San Juan, Navajo Res. Inflow, New Mexico 27/ near Bluff, Utah 35/ Animas at Durango, Colorado	310 400 81 155 320 310 780 28 125 400 115 145 2.2 11.8 2.3 15.1 15.8 10.8 4.3 8.6 191 233 165	39 34 35 47 32 26 28 49 42 44 38 49 5 12 1 23 19 15 20 32 27 39	April-Sept. April-Sept. April-Sept. April-Sept. April-Sept. April-July April-July April-Sept. April-Sept. April-Sept. April-Sept. April-Sept. April-Sept. April-July May-July May-July May-July May-July May-July May-July April-July April-July April-Sept.	347 1,222 62 254
LOWER COLORADO  Virgin near Virgin, Utah  Little Colorado above Lyman, Arizona Gila near Solomon, Arizona Frisco at Clifton, Arizona Salt at Intake, Arizona Tonto above Roosevelt, Arizona Verde above Horseshoe Dam, Arizona	9.1 - - 17.0 0.7 9.0	33 - - - 41 50 89	May-June - - - May May May	54 3 17
GREAT BASIN  Bear at Utah-Wyo. State Line     at Harer, Idaho  Smith's Fork near Border, Wyoming Thomas Fork near WyoIda. State Line Logan near Logan, Utah 36/ Ogden, Pine View Res. Inflow, Utah 27/ Weber near Oakley, Utah Provo near Hailstone, Utah 37/ Strawberry Res. Inflow, Utah Utah Lake Net Inflow, Utah Big Cottonwood near Salt Lake City, Utah Beaver near Beaver, Utah Sevier near Hatch, Utah     near Gunnison, Utah So. Fork Humboldt near Elko, Nevada Humboldt at Palisades, Nevada Truckee at Farad, California 38/ East Carson near Gardnerville, Nevada West Carson at Woodsfords, California East Walker near Bridgeport, California East Walker near Coleville, California Donner und Blitzen near Frenchglen, Oregon Silvies near Burns, Oregon Chewaucan near Paisley, Oregon Deep above Adel, Oregon Bidwell near Ft. Bidwell, California	37 13 25 6 27 11.3 22 22 1.5 43 9.7 4.2 8.5 6.0 12 10 25 28 8 4 32 16 4 5.3 8 2.2	35 6 22 19 28 18 24 24 4 30 31 24 25 21 7 13 19 20 7 25 43 12 9	May-July May-Sept. April-Sept. April-Sept. May-July May-June May-July	75 135 40 99 52 80 98 27 - 7.7 22 15 57 149 199 150 41 59 129

Forecasts in California provided by Department of Water Resources Average is for 1958-72 period except California. California is computed for 1921-70 period. Forecasts assume average Effective Climate Conditions from Date Through Snow Well Season

#### SELECTED STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

May 1, 1977

STREAM AND STATION	FORECASTS THIS YEAR		Forecast Period	Last Year's Flow In	
	Flow in (1,000 A.F.)	Percent of Average	Torecast Feriod	(1,000 A.F.)	
UPPER COLUMBIA	00 000	6.5		F0 6F7	
Columbia at Birchbank, British Columbia 40/	28,200	65	May-Sept.	50,657	
At Grand Coulee, Washington 40/	33,600	54	May-Sept.	73,149	
below Rock Island, Washington	37,000	54	May-Sept.	78,541	
Kootenai below Libby Dam near Libby, Montana	3,500	50	May-Sept.	7,455	
at Leonia, Idaho	4,300	52	May-Sept.	-	
Blackfoot near Bonner, Montana	400	44	May-Sept.	905	
So.Fk. Flathead nr Columbia Falls, Montana 40/	1,320	62	May-Sept.	2,120	
Flathead at Columbia Falls, Montana 40/	3,450	60	May-Sept.	5,785	
near Polson, Montana 40/	3,800	56	May-Sept.	6,838	
Clark Fork above Missoula, Montana	690	44	May-Sept.	1,586	
near Plains, Montana 40/	5,500	49	May-Sept.	11,182	
at Whitehorse Rapids, Idaho	6,000	49	May-Sept.	12,349	
Bitterroot near Darby, Montana	200	38	May-Sept.	529	
Priest near Priest River, Idaho 41/	290	42	May-July	329	
		39		15 025	
Pend Oreille below Box Canyon, Washington	5,400		May-Sept.	15,035	
Kettle near Laurier, Washington	890	55	May-Sept.		
Spokane at Post Falls, Idaho 42/	650	32	May-Sept.	7 00:	
Similkameen near Nighthawk, Washington	590	41	May-Sept.	1,884	
Okanogan near Tonasket, Washington	645	40	May-Sept.	2,004	
Methow near Pateros, Washington	380	40	May-Sept.		
Stehekin at Stehekin, Washington	435	48	May-Sept.		
Chelan at Chelan, Washington 43/	575	50	May-Sept.	1,369	
Wenatchee at Peshastin, Washington	730	46	May-Sept.	1,960	
, ,	ŀ			,	
SNAKE					
Snake above Palisades Res., Wyoming 44/	1,020	39	April-Sept.		
near Heise, Idaho 45/	1,350	37	May-Sept.		
near Blackfoot, Idaho 46/	1,490	39	May-July		
at Weiser, Idaho	1,520	30	May-Sept.		
Grey's above Palisade, Wyoming	78	20	April-Sept.	477	
Salt above Palitanda, Wyoming				516	
Salt above Palisade, Wyoming	70	19	April-Sept.	310	
Henry's Fork near Ashton, Idaho 47/	310	54	May-Sept.		
Teton near St. Anthony, Idaho	180	45	May-Sept.		
Big Lost near MacKay, Idaho <u>48</u> /	25	15	May-Sept.		
Little Lost near Howe, Idaho	10	28	May-Sept.		
Portneuf at Topaz, Idaho	27	41	May-Sept.		
Oakley Res. Inflow, Idaho	6	33	May-Sept.		
Salmon Falls Creek near San Jacinto, Idaho	12	22	May-Sept.		
Little Wood above High 5 Crks, Idaho	10	14	May-Sept.		
Big Wood, Inflow to Magic Res., Idaho 49/	27	13	May-Sept.		
Bruneau near Hot Springs, Idaho	33	20	May-Sept.		
Boise near Boise, Idaho 50/	155	12	May-Sept.		
Owyhee near Owyhee, Nevada 51/	6	15	May-July	41	
Owyhee Res. Net Inflow, Oregon 27/	35	22	May-July	172	
Malheur near Drewsey, Oregon	5	16	May-July	1,75	
Pavotto noan Honoschoo Pond Idaha 50/					
Payette near Horseshoe Bend, Idaho 52/	290	19	May-Sept.		
Weiser above Crane Creek, Idaho 40/	45	17	May-Sept.		
Burnt near Hereford, Oregon 40/	2	14	May-July		
Powder near Sumpter, Oregon	8	20	May-July		
Eagle above Skull Creek, Oregon	38	25	May-July		
Imnaha at Imnaha, Oregon	101	40	May-Sept.		
Salmon at Whitebird, Idaho	1,640	26	May-Sept.		
Lostine near Lostine, Oregon	64	55	May-Sept.		
Grande Ronde at LaGrande, Oregon	35	38	May-July	115	
Clearwater at Spalding, Idaho	2,000	29	May-Sept.		
LOWER COLUMBIA					
	320	40	May-Sept.		
TAKINA AL LIELIUM. WASHINGTON 537			1		
Yakima at CleElum, Washington 53/		23	May-Sent.		
near Parker, Washington 53/ Naches near Naches, Washington 55/	300 225	23 30	May-Sept. May-Sept.		

Forecasts in California provided by Department of Water Resources. Average is for 1958-72 period except California, California is computed for 1921-70 period. Forecasts assume average Effective Climate Conditions from Date Through Snow Melt Season.

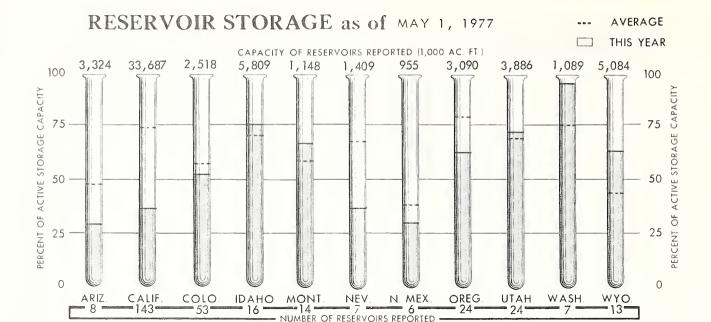
#### SELECTED STREAMFLOW FORECASTS May 1, 1977

30 24 20 109 6 191 24,000 35,000 410 183 311 241 1,600 370 890 97 95 240 120 160	59 35 30 32 19 68 40 46 47 57 57 63 54 61 40 42	May-Sept. May-July May-Sept. May-Sept. May-Sept. April-July	62,723 83,524 106,435
24 20 109 6 191 24,000 35,000 410 183 311 241 1,600 370 890 97 95 240 120 160	35 30 32 19 68 40 46 47 57 57 63 54 61 40 42	May-July May-Sept. May-Sept. May-Sept. May-Sept. May-Sept.	83,524 106,435 1,001 2,369 539 355
95 240 120 160	68 49 34	May-Sept. May-July May-Sept.	355
605		1,10,11	370
335 155 170 5 65 120 205 90 185 195 40 3 65	39 18 14 13 4 17 17 15 16 17 15 5	April-July	1,135 565 27 312 15 122 199 330 168 350 303 75 13
30,000 70,000 8,500 500 76 700 91 21.5	86 105 118 65 82 71 159	April-July April-July April-July April-July April-July April-July April-July April-July	35,920 58,420 7,100 428 69 348 59 12.5
	5 65 120 205 90 185 195 40 3 65 30,000 70,000 8,500 76 700 91	5 4 65 14 120 17 205 17 90 15 185 16 195 17 40 15 3 5 65 15 30,000 86 70,000 105 8,500 118 500 65 76 82 700 71 91 159	5

Forecasts in California provided by Department of Water Resources.

1. Verage is for 1958-72 period except California. California is computed for 1921-70 period.

Forecasts assume average Effective Climate Conditions from Date Through Snow Welt Season.



Runoff during April was 20 percent of normal in California, with almost no local runoff occurring in the San Francisco Bay and Central Coastal areas. In the Central Valley, runoff for the water year, October through April, again set record low flows for all streams except the Kern River. Only Lahontan area streams have exceeded 25 percent of normal runoff for the 7-month period.

Reservoir storage in California is 50 percent of the May 1 average. Because snowmelt inflows are far below normal this year, many reservoirs will reach their lowest storage of record and have minimal carryover supplies for 1978. Projected storage for October 1 in Central Valley Project and State Water Project reservoirs is 2,400,000 acre-feet or about 16 percent of total available capacity and 22 percent of the 10-year October 1 average.

#### COLORADO

Despite slightly improved snow conditions in some areas, water supply forecasts remain near the minimum of record on all 44 major river basins in Colorado.

Streamflow forecasts on the South Platte and its northern tributaries ranges from a low of 40 percent of normal on the St. Vrain to a high of 47 percent on Boulder Creek at Orodell. All of these forecasts are near the minimum of record. Carryover storage is near normal. Valley soil moisture is reported slightly improved due to a number of showers that developed in the area.

Low elevation snow has melted but streamflow remains low.

The snowpack along the Front Range was improved slightly during April from the Wyoming state line as far south as Colorado Springs. The storms depositing snow in the high country also provided some rainfall on the plains.

The Arkansas River is expected to flow near the record low year of 1954. Unless spring and summer rainfall is much above normal and falls at optimum times, water supplies will be extremely low. There is practically no chance to improve the snow-pack. Carryover storage in Pueblo Reservoir is 54,000 acre-feet. The remaining reservoirs are almost empty. Soil moisture conditions were improved slightly during April.

All possible water conservation is urged this summer. Many areas can get through the summer due to carryover storage, but if the drought should persist into next year, many more problems will become apparent.

Small streams may dry up completely this summer and the larger streams and rivers will have extremely low flows this fall.

#### IDAHO

Warm dry weather during the month of April has further aggravated the drought condition throughout Idaho.

#### STORAGE IN LARGE RESERVOIRS

BASIN AND NAME	CAPACITY	STORAGE	STOLALE	BASIN AND NAME	CAPACITY	STORAGE	STORAGE
OF RESERVOIR	(1,000 A.F.)		AVE T	BASIN AND NAME OF RESERVOIR	(1,000 A.F.)	(1,000 A.F.)	PAR AL. AVERAGE
UPPER MISSOURI Belle Fourche Boysen Buffalo Bill Canyon Ferry Fort Peck Garrison Hebgen Keyhole Lake Francis Case Lake Sharp Oahe Tiber Bighorn Lake	185 550 373 2,043 19,140 24,790 377 192 5,816 1,900 23,630 1,347 1,356	124 338 192 1,552 15,880 17,749 271 135 4,122 1,755 19,290 492 888	94 183 160 100 118 121 127 164 99 102 115 81	UPPER COLUMBIA Chelan Coeur d'Alene Duncan Flathead Hungry Horse Kootenay Lake Koocanusa Lower Arrow Noxon Rapids Pend Oreille Roosevelt Upper Arrow	676 225 1,400 1,791 3,428 787 5,694 2,691 335 1,155 5,232 4,400	269 179 114 877 2,288 248 2,291 671 314 419 1,688 833	120 71 139 90 114 66 - 463 227 79 102 192
PLATTE So.Platte in Colo.(30) City of Denver (7) Colo-Big Thompson (3) Glendo Pathfinder Seminoe  ARKANSAS	1,085 622 718 784 1,016 1,010	831 425 355 476 723 528	100 92 83 105 175 168	Cougar Detroit Green Peter Hills Creek Lookout Point Prineville Wickiup Yakima Res. (5)	155 300 270 200 337 153 200 1,066	86 194 219 61 131 99 183 975	80 77 109 39 51 68 97
Conchas John Martin Turquoise RIO GRANDE	273 621 130	84 9 39	48 12 -	SNAKE  American Falls Anderson Ranch Arrowrock Brownlee	1,125 423 287 980	991 340 17 697	91 121 7 182
Elephant Butte New Mexico Res. (4) UPPER COLORADO	2,195 571	352 185	93 150	Cascade Dworshak Jackson Lucky Peak Owyhee	653 2,016 847 278 715	355 1,029 647 261 485	100 317 129 183 86
Blue Mesa Flaming Gorge Navajo Powell Starvation	830 3,749 1,636 25,002 165	366 2,638 1,092 18,127 165	117 162 - - -	Palisades Warm Springs PACIFIC COASTAL	1,200 191	1,126 73	145 52
LOWER COLORADO Havasu Mead Mohave Salt River Res. (4) San Carlos Verde River Res. (2)	619 26,159 1,810 1,755 1,093 318	595 20,622 1,755 899 3 23	101 122 104 76 14	Clair Engle Clear Lake Nacimiento Ross Upper Klamath CALIFORNIA CENTRAL VALLEY	2,448 440 350 1,404 584	1,035 195 44 540 454	47 73 20 72 88
GREAT BASIN Bear Deer Creek Lahontan Rye Patch Sevier Bridge Strawberry Tahoe Utah Willard Bay	1,421 250 291 157 236 274 732 884 193	1,050 100 174 105 114 211 123 798 149	101 96 79 98 100 164 26 119	Almanor Berryessa Bullards Bar Folsom Isabella McClure Millerton Oroville Pine Flat Shasta	1,308 1,602 930 1,010 570 1,026 521 3,484 1,013 4,500	643 944 289 298 66 207 218 1,407 339 1,214	78 61 44 41 32 30 60 46 51 29

Reservoir Storage Data Provided by Bureau of Reclamation , Corps of Engineers, Geological Survey. and water using organizations. Data from California and British Columbia provided by Department of Water Resources and Department of Lands, Forests and Water Resources, respectively.

Water supplies will be deficient throughout the state during 1977. Critical shortages will be experienced in many areas, particularly the south central and southwestern sections. Many small streams are expected to be dry by next fall. Seasonal runoff forecasts range from a low of 6 percent of average for the Bear River at Harer to a high of 54 percent of normal for the Henry's Fork at Ashton. Record lows are forecast for practically all watersheds in the state.

The winter snow accumulation has disappeared on all watersheds except at very high elevations and in protected areas. The melting snow produced minimal runoff on all drainages, setting new minimum April flow records at many gauging stations.

Stored water, though near average in many reservoirs, will be insufficient to supply irrigation demands for the coming season. Due to streamflow and early drawdown for irrigation, reservoirs will not fill this year. Some smaller reservoirs are already empty.

Precipitation during April averaged less than 20 percent of normal over most of the state with a significant portion of south central and southwestern Idaho receiving less than 10 percent of average. Mean temperatures for the month were 2 to 5 degrees above normal.

#### MONTANA

Snowfall and precipitation were below average during April. Snowmelt is occuring at most elevations. Snow at many snow courses has completely melted and many streams have already or are in the process of reaching their peak snow melt runoff.

Dry soils have absorbed much of this early snowmelt. Streamflow levels will be much lower than normal for the remainder of the season. Irrigation water supplies from natural streamflow will be in short supply by mid-June on many streams.

Snowpack conditions deteriorated during the past 30 days. Many snow courses are bare - the earliest date this has occurred in the state. Early season runoff has been below average in most areas and is as low as 40 percent of the April normal.

Most streams in the Clark Fork drainage are forecast to have the lowest or near lowest runoff of record for the next five months. Runoff in the Flathead is expected to be slightly greater than the low years of the early 1940's.

Inflow to Clark Canyon reservoir is forecast to be less than 10 percent of average for the next five months. Most other Missouri River streams are forecast between 30 and 60 percent average runoff. Exceptions are streams in central Montana where streamflow should be 80 to 90 percent of average.

Most streams in the Yellowstone drainage are forecast to have the lowest or near lowest runoff of record. Many smaller streams have already reached their peak snowmelt runoff. The major streams are expected to reach their peak snowmelt runoff by mid-May.

Irrigation water will be in short supply by mid-June on smaller tributaries and by late June or early July on larger streams.

#### NEVADA

Snow surveys taken about May 1 indicate there is very little snow in the Sierras and most areas in Nevada. Of the 64 snow courses surveyed only 24 had measurable snow. Most courses had less than 20 percent of average snow water while some were below 10 percent.

This year's snowpack has been one of the poorest since snow survey records began in 1910.

Streamflow forecasts indicate minimum flows should be expected on all streams. Streamflow measurements for April denote many have probably reached their peak. This is 4 to 6 weeks earlier than normal. Water diversions are being made to only those with greatest seniority water rights.

Streamflow forecasts for the May 1 - July 31 period are below 25 percent of average on the Sierra streams. Most will be a minimum record if they occur. Humboldt and Owyhee drainage streamflow forecasts are slightly below last month's and most streams appear to have reached their peak flows during April.

Water storage in seven major reservoirs represents only 55 percent of average. Lake Tahoe contains 123,000 acre-feet equaling 26 percent of the 1958-72 average.

#### NEW MEXICO

The outlook for water supplies in New Mexico remains poor. In some basins the flows may become critical enough to warrant rationing for municipal, recreational and industrial use, in addition to agriculture. As a result of the extremely dry winter, some streams will flow at or below minimum of record.

Melting of the mountain snowpack has progressed rapidly in most areas. Precipitation during the third week of April helped to improve soil moisture, but no significant changes in water supplies are forecast. The Rio Grande and its major tributaries are expected to flow at or below previous minimums which is about 40 percent of normal. Streams originating in the Sangre de Cristo Range should be slightly better. Storms during the third week of April added some snow to higher elevations and rain at lower elevations which helped to improve soil moisture. Water users with direct diversion will be hurt the most.

#### **OREGON**

Oregon water users will experience extreme water shortages this next summer. Only water users with access to stored supplies will have normal to below normal amounts of water for irrigation. Users dependent upon direct diversion are expected to have very poor supplies during the water-use season.

The mountain snowpack is very poor for May 1. The only snow left is in the high Wallowa's of northeast Oregon and along the crest of the Cascades. This condition does not normally occur until June 1 to June 15. Of 68 key snow courses that normally have snow on May 1, 63 equalled or set new minimum record water contents. Forty-three courses were completely bare of snow. Percentages of normal were 0 to 15 percent on eastern Oregon watersheds and 0 to 35 percent in the Cascades.

April was very dry in most of Oregon. Precipitation amounts ranged from 15 to 65 percent in eastern Oregon. The area around John Day received good showers during the month. Western Oregon precipitation was 45 percent of normal. Precipitation since November has been 20 to 40 percent of average. This has been one of the very driest years experienced in the state. Soil moisture is still below average in the mountain watersheds, even after the snowmelt which occurred last month. This factor will detract from any additional runoff which would occur from spring rains.

Streamflow during the May through September period is forecast to be much below normal. The Owyhee is expected to yield only 20 percent of average. Other representative figures includes the Malheur, 17 percent; the Grande Ronde, 38 percent; the Silvies, 12 percent; the Willamette, 52 percent; and the Deschutes, 68 percent of normal.

Twenty-four principal irrigation reservoirs were storing 1,941,000 acre-feet on May 1. This is 79 percent of average and 63 percent of capacity. Reservoir levels will begin to drop as releases are made for water use and irrigation.

#### UTAH

The winter of 1976-77 in Utah has established itself as the driest on record, and the spring runoff months point toward producing the lowest streamflows since the drought years of 1934. It is feared that many areas of the state will face water shortages not experienced that dry year.

Premature melting of snow on the high watersheds and complete melting of all snow at low elevations was recorded on this months surveys.

Only 27 percent of the courses measured had any snow, and only two of 134 recorded snow above the previous minimums. Statewide, only 9 percent of an average May 1 snow remains.

The best snow cover in the state was measured in the Upper Green River Basin, and it was only 28 percent of average. Snow courses on the north slope of the Uintahs measured as high as 47 percent of the May 1 average water content.

Precipitation measurements indicate accumulation for the month from 80 percent of average at Burnt Creek down to 4 percent at Big Flat in the Beaver River drainage and some had no precipitation at all.

Dry soils continued to be a concern. With the bare, dry conditions of watershed soils, absorption rates from melt have been high, and will materially reduce the effects of spring rains on runoff.

Storage in 24 key reservoirs is now 105 percent of the May 1 average and 17 percent less than last year. Water is already being used from reservoirs because streamflow has already peaked at near record low levels.

Spring and summer streamflow forecasts are lowered this month as a result of continued warm, dry weather. Prospects for record low flows exist throughout the state. Many streams will produce less flow this year than was recorded in the 1934 drought year.

The Bear is forecast to yield only 6 percent of normal; the Sevier, 10 percent;

Parleys Creek, 12 percent; Lake Fork, 23 percent; Weber, 24 percent; Logan, 28 percent; and Utah Lake inflow is expected to be 30 percent of average. Most of these flows are below that received in 1934. Rainfall this coming summer must be well above normal to avoid the severe shortages as experienced in 1934.

#### WASHINGTON

The water supply outlook for Washington has worsened from that which was forecast one month ago. The snowpack melted very rapidly during the past month and snow cover now ranges from a high of 49 percent of normal to a low of 7 percent. Many of the snow courses that normally have measureable amounts of snow as of May 1, are totally bare and only the highest elevation snow courses are reported to have any snow cover at all. Conditions are somewhat better in the northern portion of the Columbia Basin in British Columbia. Some local drainages in this area are near normal.

As a result of the poor snow cover and extreme lack of precipitation input during April, water supply forecasts have all been revised downward from last month-some as much as 15 to 20 percent.

Most irrigation reservoirs are in good shape, ranging from 56 to 101 percent of capacity, but power reservoir storage is low and not expected to fill this spring.

#### WYOMING

April showers failed to materialize in the southwest portion of the state and severe drought conditions persist. The warm temperatures in April have melted most of the snow, but due to the dry soil conditions, very little runoff has occurred

An unusually warm April has depleted all of the low elevation snow and significantly reduced the high elevation snow-pack. With the exception of the northern portion of the Bighorn Mountains, the entire state is below normal with most of the Continental Divide having less than 10 percent of the normal water content for May 1.

The dry spell continued through April on the west side of the state with the Snake and Yellowstone drainages receiving only 10-30 percent of the normal amount. Precipitation was near normal in the northeast and above average in the southeast. The seasonal totals range from one-third to one-half of average in the west to slightly above normal along the east side of the state.

Streamflow forecasts range from 80 percent below normal in the southwest to near average in the northeast. Many streams are at or past the peak runoff and beginning to recede. Record low flows can be expected on most streams in the southwest.

Reservoir storage remains above the May 1 average throughout the state, but with the low streamflow volumes, some of the major reservoirs in the state will not tell this year.



### EXPLANATION of STREAMFLOW FORECASTS

All flows are observed flows except as adjusted for: 1/ Storage change in Lake Sherburne. 2/ Storage change in Lima and Clark Canyon reservoirs. 3/ Storage change in Hebgen Lake. 4/ Storage change in Gibson Reservoir and measured diversions. 5/ Storage change in Two Medicine, Four Horns, Lake Francis and Swift reservoirs. 6/ Storage change in Canyon Ferry and Tiber reservoirs. 7/ Changes as indicated in (6/), (8/), plus storage change in Fort Peck. 8/ Storage change in Boysen, Buffalo Bill, Bull Lake and Yellowtail reservoirs. 9/Storage change in Buffalo Bill Reservoir plus Heart Mountain diversion. 10/ Storage change in Pilot Butte and Bull Lake reservoirs plus Wyoming canal diversion.

11/ Changes indicated in (10/) plus storage change in Boysen Reservoir. 12/ Plus diversions to Cache LaPoudre. 13/ Plus by-pass to power plants. 14/ Minus diversion thru Gumlick Tunnel. 15/ Storage change in Price Reservoir. 16/ Minus diversions from North Platte, Laramie and Colorado rivers plus measured diversions above station. 17/ Storage change in Clear Creek, Twin Lakes and Turquoise reservoirs minus diversions from Colorado River. 18/ Storage change in Rio Grande, Santa Maria and Continental reservoirs. 19/ Storage change in El Vado and Abiquiu reservoirs. 20/ Storage change in Platoro Reservoir.

21/ Storage change in Grandby Reservoir as furnished by U.S.B.R. plus diversions by Adams Tunnel and Grand River Ditch. 22/ Changes as indicated in (21/) plus diversions thru Roberts, Gumlick and Moffat tunnels and storage change in Dillon, Homestake, Williams Fork, Green Mountain and Willow Creek reservoirs. 23/ Changes indicated in (22/) and (26/). 24/ Storage change in Blue Mesa Reservoir. 25/ Changes indicated in (24/), (30/) and (35/) and storage change in Lake Powell. 26/ Diversions to Arkansas River plus storage change in Ruedi Reservoir. 27/ (Inflow record as computed by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.) 28/ Storage change in Taylor, 8/ Blue Mesa and Morrow Point reservoirs. 29/ Storage change in Fontenelle Reservoir. 30/ Storage change in Flaming Gorge Reservoir.

31/ Plus diversion through Duchesne Tunnel. 32/ Storage change in Moon Lake Reservoir. 33/ Storage change in Scofield Reservoir. 34/ Storage change in Joe's Valley Reservoir. 35/ Storage change in Navajo Reservoir. 36/ Plus U. P. & L. Co. tailrace and Logan, Hyde Park and Smithfield canals. 37/ Minus diversions thru Duchesne Tunnel and Weber-Provo Canal. 38/ Storage change in Lake Tahoe and Boca reservoirs (Forecast by Truckee Basin Committee.) 39/ Storage change in Bridgeport Reservoir. 40/ Corrected for major upstream impairments -- represents simulated natural flow conditions.

41/ Storage change in Priest Lake. 42/ Storage change in Coeur d'Alene Lake and diversions by Spokane Valley Farms Co. and Rathrum Prairie canals. 43/ Storage change in Lake Chelan. 44/ Storage change in Jackson Lake. 45/ Storage change in Jackson Lake and Palisade reservoirs. 46/ Storage change in Jackson Lake, Palisades, Island Park, Henry's Lake, Grassy Lake plus diversions between Heise and Blackfoot. 47/ Storage change in Henry's Lake and Island Park reservoirs. 48/ Storage change in MacKay Reservoir and diversion in Sharp Ditch. 49/ Combined flow Big Wood near Bellevue and Camas Creek near Blaine. 50/ Storage change in Arrowrock, Anderson Ranch and Lucky Peak reservoirs.

51/ Storage change in Wild Horse Reservoir. 52/ Storage change in Cascade and Deadwood reservoirs. 53/ Storage change in Keechelus, Kachess and CleElum reservoirs plus diversion by Kittitas Canal. 54/ Changes indicated in (52/) plus storage change in Bumping and Rimrock Lakes plus diversion by Roza, Union Gao, New Reservation, Old Reservation and Surrise canals. 55/ Storage change in Bumping and Rimrock lakes and diversions by Tieton, Selah Valley, Wapatox canals and City of Yakima. 56/ Storage change in Merwin, Yale and Swift reservoirs. 57/ Storage change in Mayfield Reservoir.

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